

Message

From: Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer) [GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV]
Sent: 11/8/2017 12:33:53 AM
To: Munson, James [MUNSON.JAMES@EPA.GOV]; Gerdes, Jason [Gerdes.Jason@epa.gov]; Prijatel, Jean [PRIJATEL.JEAN@EPA.GOV]; Goforth, Kathleen [Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov]
CC: Capilla, Morgan [capilla.morgan@epa.gov]; Ardillo, Anne [ARDILLO.ANNE@EPA.GOV]
Subject: RE: Point Reyes National Seashore w/ links to articles

Here's a couple local articles about it that are definitely worth reading to get the history.

<https://www.ptreyeslight.com/article/gmp-details-emerge-park-open-house> – about the open house

<http://www.marinij.com/article/NO/20171018/NEWS/171019754> - about the current scoping period

<http://www.marinij.com/article/NO/20170712/NEWS/170719936> - older article from the summer about the lawsuit

Offering 20-year leases to ranchers in the Point Reyes National Seashore is among the alternatives National Park Service officials will consider as they look at addressing the future of agriculture in West Marin.

A 30-day comment period on the alternatives will run through Nov. 15, with public hearings set for Point Reyes and Sausalito next week.

Looking to provide West Marin ranchers with more security and opportunity, the park service was in the middle of a planning process for working beef cattle and dairy ranches spread over 28,000 acres within the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Longer leases for ranchers was the cornerstone of the plan, dubbed the “Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Assessment.”

But a lawsuit was filed in February 2016 to stop the process. That lawsuit — filed by environmentalists — was resolved this summer and requires the park service to evaluate no-ranching, no-dairy-ranching and reduced-ranching alternatives as part of the management plan

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Still, Mr. Lunny viewed the inclusion of a wide array of alternatives in a positive light. “It’s a mistake the park made during the [development of the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan] by not including a full range of alternatives, which just called for a lawsuit,” he said.

Nicolette Hahn Niman, who runs BN Ranch in Bolinas with her husband, Bill Niman, was in agreement. Their ranch would be eliminated in the reduced-ranching alternative, though they would maintain 200 acres under their life estate until Mr. Niman’s death.

“I don’t think it’s wrong these alternatives are being considered,” Ms. Hahn Niman said, adding that an open discussion benefits everyone. “Because though there is a lot of appreciation for agricultural production, there are also people who feel it doesn’t belong. I think that the case for ranching is very strong, not just economically and culturally, but ecologically. If you have the conversation, you can spread that information.”

At the crux of the issue, she said, was the question: “Is this land optimally a grassland area?”

Mr. Livingston noted with particular interest that many of the ranches slated to be taken out in the reduced-ranching alternative border Drakes Estero.

“When the oyster farm was taken out, there was fear in the ranching community that the ranches around the estero would later be targeted—and that’s what appears to be happening,” he said.

Stephanie Skophammer Gordon

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Note the S before the @

From: Munson, James
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To: Gordon, Stephanie (Skophammer) <GORDON.STEPHANIES@EPA.GOV>; Gerdes, Jason <Gerdes.Jason@epa.gov>; Prijatel, Jean <PRIJATEL.JEAN@EPA.GOV>; Goforth, Kathleen <Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov>
Cc: Capilla, Morgan <capilla.morgan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Point Reyes National Seashore

FYI:

https://www.nps.gov/pore/getinvolved/planning_gmp.htm

https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/news/newsreleases_20171016_gmp_amendment_public_comment.htm

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